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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1948.

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 208

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon

CLERK TO M. O. H.

Miss Eccles

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices, Salcombe, S. Devon

Telephone: Salcombe 63

As a result of the National Health Service Act 1946, on the 5th July 1948, the hospital Services were taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, and the local Health Authority (Devon County Council) Became responsible for the Ambulance Services.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC.31st,1948.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER,A.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.H.C.YEOMAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS.RICHMOND AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The Health of the District has continued to be satisfactory and there was little infectious disease.

The National Health Service Act 1946 came into force on July 5th 1948.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) - 1,181.

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 2,482.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to the Rate Books - 834.

Rateable Value - £21,971.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £92.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births - Male 19.	Female 10.	Total 29.
Live (legitimate) - Male 18	Female 9.	Total 27.
Live (illegitimate) Male 1	Female 1.	Total 2.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population 11.68.

STILL BIRTHS - Nil. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

DEATHS - 33. Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident

population - 13.21.

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - Nil

DEATH RATE:- All Infants per 1,000 Live Births - Nil.
Legitimate Live Births - Nil.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - Nil.
Deaths from Syphilitic Diseases - Nil.
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)- Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil.
Deaths from Cancer - (all ages) - 4.
Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions - 5.
Deaths from Heart Disease - 18.
Deaths from other Diseases of the Circulatory System - 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil
Deaths from other Digestive Diseases - 2.
Deaths from respiratory Diseases - 1.

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional)

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY WORK.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has taken over the Bacteriological Laboratory, formerly administered by the Devon County Council, and is carrying on providing a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk and water supplies.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is available, free of cost, through the general practitioner service and stocks are kept at local hospitals.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district:-

Men's Ward	...	6 Beds
Women's Ward	...	6 Beds.
Children's Cots	...	2
Private Wards	...	2 (1 bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the ambulance service of the Devon County Council. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

MIDWIVES.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising midwife in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE - There is a centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.

At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or'bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as in-patients at Exeter and Plymouth. For out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this District as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

DIPHTHERIA.

I would emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the

patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of 'bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

The Devon County Council is now responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities and cases of infectious disease are removed as in the past by the Swilly Isolation Hospital.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.

The Devon County Council also provides medical transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1948.

Disease.	Total cases notified.
Measles.	10.
Whooping Cough.	11.
	21.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 70 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	1	1	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY (i) The source of water for the district is at South Brent and is supplied in bulk by the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity; (ii) 4 samples of water secured from the domestic tap in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory; (iii) chlorination is effected at the Board's works at South Brent, and (iv) it is estimated that 98% of the population are supplied by water direct from the Council's mains and the remaining 2% are dependant on private supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewerage scheme of note has been carried out during the year. The plans for the provision of new main sewers were approved by the Ministry of Health and consent was given for Bills of Quantities to be prepared.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The weekly collection of refuse has continued. Negotiations are still proceeding with the Ministry of Health for consent to raise a loan for the first stage of the proposed embankment wall. In the meantime despite the fact that extra labour has been put on the tip to remove tins and cover up the tipping face, the nuisance caused in the harbour by floating refuse has continued.

HOUSING

27 Permanent houses were completed during the year and a further 9 houses were in course of erection. Of the houses completed 24 were of the three bedroom type, one of the four bedroom type and 2 one bedroom type for aged persons.

FOOD SUPPLIES

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

781b oranges, 24 tins Herring tit-bits, 18 1b corned beef, 3 stone bloaters, 12 1b cheese, 12 tins grapefruit, 44 tins miscellaneous articles (milk, fruit, vegetables etc.)

MILK AND DAIRIES

All dairies and cowsheds were regularly inspected. A main water supply was provided to two farms during the year. Only three farms in the district now rely on their local water supplies. One of these farms is so situated that it would be uneconomic

to provide a piped water supply, but it is expected that the other two farms will be connected to the mains during the coming year.

BAKEHOUSES

The 4 bakehouses were inspected regularly and were kept in a satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS

There are three schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at two of the schools is still very poor.

During the year 4 notices were received referring to 32 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

Mumps 31, Whooping Cough 1.

DISINFECTION

Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

NUISANCES

5 complaints were received and 4 of these were dealt with by informal action. In the remaining case a notice was served under Section 39 of the Public Health Act 1936 and the necessary work was then carried out by the owner.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W.C. SMALES,
Medical Officer of Health.